

Amendments to the Specification

In the specification as published, please replace paragraph 0022 with the following amended paragraph.

FIGS. 1A and 1B schematically illustrate the main constructional and operational principles of an article transfer and positioning system according to the invention, where **FIG. 1A** shows the system in an initial, non-deformed state of membranes of a spring suspension arrangement, and **FIG. 1B** shows the system in an operative state with the membranes being deformed.

Also in the specification as published, please replace paragraph 0025 with the following amended paragraph.

FIG[[S]]. 4A and 4B schematically illustrates ~~the construction of~~ a Z-R-Theta-system of the present invention; and[[.]]

Also in the specification as published, please insert the following paragraph after paragraph 0025.

FIG. 4B shows an exploded view of the Z-R-Theta-system of **FIG. 4A**.

Also in the specification as published, please replace paragraph 0033 with the following amended paragraph.

The spring arrangement 110 is formed by outer and inner cylinder-like assemblies (drums) 114A and 114B. The outer drum 114A is formed with openings, generally at 115, the provision of which is optional and is aimed at decreasing the weight of the entire construction and also at allowing access to the inner parts of the construction (e.g., for maintenance purposes). The drums 114A and 114B are attached to each other by top and bottom membrane-like members M.sub.1 and M.sub.2 (for example made of a stainless steel and having a thickness of 0.5 mm). The membranes M.sub.1 and M.sub.2 have an annular shape and are clamped to the drums by means of ~~claiming~~ clamping rings 117A and 117B, respectively, and bolts 119A and 119B.